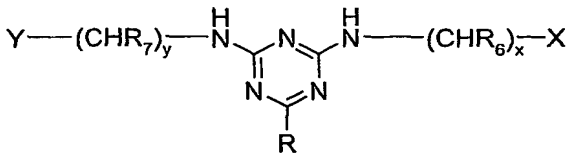
What is claimed is:

1. A method of increasing the depth of shade of dyed natural or synthetic polyamide fibre materials, which comprises treating the fibre material before, during or after dyeing with a liquor comprising a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R is halogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_5-C_{24}aryl, C_6-C_{36}aralkyl, -OR_1 or -NR_1R_2, R_1 and R_2 being, each independently of the other, hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, mercapto, carboxyl, sulfo, C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfonyl, C_5-C_{24}arylsulfonyl or C_6-C_{36}aralkylsulfonyl groups, C_5-C_{24}aryl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, carboxyl, sulfo, C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfonyl, C_5-C_{24}arylsulfonyl or C_6-C_{36}aralkylsulfonyl groups, or C_6-C_{36}aralkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, carboxyl, sulfo, C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfonyl, C_5-C_{24}arylsulfonyl or C_6-C_{36}aralkylsulfonyl groups,
X and Y are, each independently of the other, mercapto, -NR_3R_4 or -$N^+R_3R_4R_5$ A^-, wherein R_3, R_4 and R_5 are, each independently of the others, hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl and A^- is chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate or methylsulfate,
R_6 and R_7 are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl,
and x and y are, each independently of the other, a number from 2 to 12.

2. A method according to claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein x and y are the same.

3. A method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein x and y are 3, 4 or 6.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein X and Y are the same.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein R is a group of formula -NH-$(CHR_8)_z$-Z wherein R_8 is hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl, Z is hydroxy, mercapto or amino, and z is a number from 2 to 12.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of formula (1) is present in the liquor in an amount of from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the weight of the polyamide fibre material.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fibre material is treated before the dyeing.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the treatment with the liquor comprising the compound of formula (1) is carried out at a temperature of from 20 to 130°C.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the pretreatment is carried out at a pH of from 7 to 13.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the treatment with the liquor comprising the compound of formula (1) is carried out in accordance with the exhaust process.

11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the polyamide fibre material is in the form of microfibres.

12. A textile adjuvant comprising an aqueous solution of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1.